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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Amethod and system of a computer application program allows a user of the application program to utilize third party legacy data lists, e.g., contact information lists, telephone and facsimile numbers, scheduling and/or appointment information or the like, through a common interface, without requiring the user to manually type in the data into a new data list or to maintain multiple data lists. For each of the third party legacy data list installed on the computer, one of a plurality of plug-in modules also installed on the computer acts as an interface between the application program and the legacy data list. Each of the plug-in module is an object accessible by the application program at run-time. In one embodiment, the plug-in modules are compiled and a dynamic linked library (DLL) and registered in the operating system registry based on an object oriented specification, e.g., the component object model (COM) specification provided by the Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, Washington, USA. The plug-in modules are listed under a COM category in the registry of the operating system, and are discovered by the application program at start up. Additional plug-in modules may be added at any time simply by registering the additional plug-in modules. The next time the application program is started, the additional plug-in modules are automatically discovered. Using the discovered plug-in modules, the application program allows the user to access and/or edit the third party legacy data lists through the user interface of the application program, or through an edit user interface of the third party legacy data list.